

**Tentative Assessment of Soviet  
Forces in Cuba**

**2 April 1963**

1. We believe that between 13 February and 2 April a minimum of 4,000 Soviet personnel have been withdrawn from Cuba.

the great majority of these personnel appear to have been military.

the total withdrawals could easily be in excess of 4,000.

2. Before withdrawals began we estimated,

that at least 17,500 troops would be required to staff Soviet installations and man Soviet equipment in Cuba. This estimate was based on an analysis of function and not on a head count. It had an inherent plus or minus factor depending on the levels at which the USSR had manned these units and systems.

6. In the absence of more firm evidence, however, we cannot determine with any degree of certainty the specific units from which the embarked personnel may have been withdrawn. Until entire units depart, or equipment is embarked, or entire systems are turned over to the Cubans, it will be difficult to equate departures with any unit-by-unit reduction of the Soviet military presence in Cuba.

7. In sum, at least 4,000 Soviet military personnel appear to have been withdrawn from Cuba since 13 February. It is possible that some of the many Soviet ships which have arrived in Cuba in this period have brought in additional military personnel, although we have no acceptable evidence that there have been new arrivals in significant numbers--i.e., more than a few hundred. In view of this and of the fact that our earlier estimate was not based on a head count, it is not possible to arrive at a firm estimate of the strength of present Soviet military forces in Cuba by the process of simple subtraction of the number which we think have been withdrawn.

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